

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF

POTTER STREET

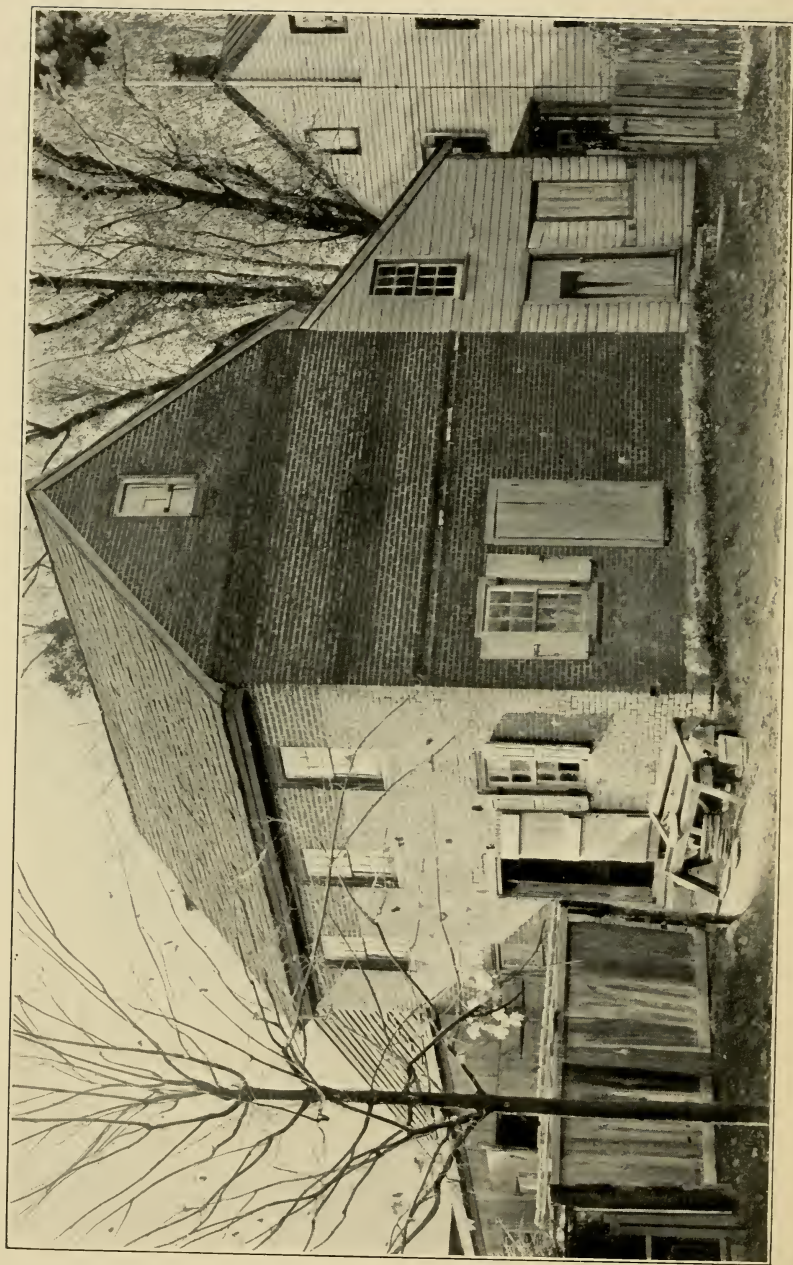
IN

Haddonfield, New Jersey

BY

Sarah Crawford Hillman





THE OLD HADDONFIELD POTTERY. 1805-1905

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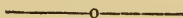
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HISTORIC POTTER STREET.

PASSING through the basement of John Wanamaker's store, some time ago, the pottery attracted particular attention; and the specimens, ornamental and useful, were as numerous and varied as the displays in general, at the Wanamaker establishment.

Pausing to admire a variety of stew-pans of different sizes, the salesman in charge, remarked, that those useful articles were manufactured by a firm in Haddonfield, New Jersey.

These handy cooking vessels at once appealed to the party addressed, and a momentary sensation of remorse was experienced, because of the failure to recognize home products, which proved unmistakable ignorance of home industries.

A spirit of pride was at the same time aroused, and memory began to associate the present achievements with the history of the past; and in this, Potter street, naturally, figured most prominently.

The manufacture of pottery was one of the earliest industries established in Haddonfield. The plant was located on the new Long-a-coming road Ellis St. being a continuation of the old Long-a-coming road. The land constituting the road was all contributed by the East side; it was surveyed and laid May 23, 1798, and recorded June 4, 1798. The street was four rods in width.

Some years ago, efforts were made, by a few individuals, to change the name of this old street to some more attractive title, but the attempt was unsuccessful.

Those who know of its significance, claim that the name is the distinguishing feature of the street, and though the pottery is no longer in evidence, this should be preserved as a memorial to the enterprise with which the street was so long and so closely associated.

The Pottery was built in 1805, and owned by John Thompson, who purchased the property April 30th of the

same year from Chas. French and John Brick, executors of the estate of Elizabeth Hinchman. On January 4th, 1816, John Thompson sold the place to Thomas Redman, Jr. The third owners of the business were Jacob and David Roberts, brothers, who purchased the property of Thomas Redman, Jr., June 5th, 1819.

Upon the decease of Jacob Roberts, Thomas Redman and John Gill, his executors, jointly with David Roberts, sold the estate to Richard W. Snowden, who had learned the trade of a Potter from John Thompson, aforesaid. Mr. Snowden here engaged in this business for over half a century, viz: from 1816 till his death, October 20th, 1868.

The Richard Snowden dwelling was erected later, of material, it is said, that formerly constituted a Chair Factory.

The bricks from the old Market House on Main street, that was suddenly demolished, one night in 1840, were purchased by Mr. Snowden and economically bestowed about the pottery and the dwelling.

William H. Snowden, son of the late Richard Sr., who claims to be the oldest resident now living in Haddonfield, who was born in the place, enjoys to tell that he was but one year old, when his parents moved into their new home, next to the pottery.

Mr. Snowden makes no pretensions to having been as precocious as many youngsters of that age at the present day, and, therefore, fails to be able to recall any of the incidents attending the event.

Richard Snowden, Sr., died in 1868, and the pottery business was continued by his son, Richard, until his death, in 1883, when the pottery was leased by Barton Rixon, who had long been in the employ of Mr. Snowden.

At this time a *lathe* was used to form the earthenware vessels, and a horse to grind the clay.

Many recall the *lathe* which was a machine consisting of a framework, bearing an adjustable center, between which a cutting tool is thrust against the work, shaping or turning it down, usually to some circular form.

A few years later, Charles Wingender & Bro. leased the factory. Under the enterprising management of these two brothers, who learned their trade in Germany, the business, along the lines of improved quality and methods

of workmanship so developed, that, in 1904, they abandoned the old pottery and erected one of their own.

The new building is situated on Lake St., near the western limits of the borough, and is an up-to-date, and commodious structure.

They are here operating a prosperous business, and are never without plenty of orders in advance. They manufacture Plain and Ornamental Stoneware, and Earthenware, and are importers of High Grade Ivory-glazed Mugs and Tankards.

Of the Salt-glazed Blue Stoneware, the articles made include butter-pots, jars, jugs, pitchers, water-coolers, vases, etc.

Of the Red Earthenware, are made pipkins, bean-pots, stove-pipe collars, pie-plates, hanging baskets, flower-pots, garden vases, etc., and, **Casseroles**, the stew pans, seen at Wanamaker's.

Metallic cooking vessels being no longer used by hotels and restaurants, there is a great demand for casseroles.

These are sauce-pan-shaped earthen vessels, varying in size, from three to eleven inches in diameter, with a simple glass glaze on the inside. So increasing is the demand for this specialty, that it is difficult to keep the trade supplied.

This firm now manufacture flower-pots by machinery, which enables them to turn out hundreds more in the same time, than could possibly be done by the hand moulding process.

The Haddonfield Pottery sells to all the Department Stores in Philadelphia and New York, and also sends orders to Chicago.

The Wingenders formerly lived on the corner of Fowler Avenue, where they also conducted a store for the display and sale of their wares; this method of advertising added immensely to their trade.

Returning to Potter street and the Pottery, behold what changes time has wrought ! The building erected by Mr. Thompson in 1805, has proven itself an institution of wonderful possibilities. After fulfilling all the purposes for which it was designed, including an entire century of active operation, in 1905 there is beheld a complete metamorphosis of the structure; and, from the dingy, somber old pottery, has evolved a neat and artistic cottage.

Instead of clays and kilns, now are seen hedges of evergreen, clustering vines, and masses of floral beauty, that impart a peculiar charm to this romantic home.

The first tenant of this fascinating retreat was Mr. George Sinnickson, who, for pastime, indulged in the culture of bees; and, in place of the familiar steady-going old pottery wagon, seen for ages, a great tooting automobile now sported, at random, in and out the old drive.

One day, the auto sped off with a bound, and returned with a bride from Boston town.

William H. S. Alexander, a great-grandson of the late Richard Snowden, Sr., next appeared on the scene, and, as seemed both wise and meet, this gallant young Illustrator brought a Haddonfield bride to Potter street.

The dwelling that stood beside the pottery, has also been remodeled, and with its many improvements, is now one of the most comfortable homes on this street.

Another industry may be recalled, namely, the important business conducted by the Willits Coal and Lumber Co., which had its incipency on Potter street.

About 1830, when James Glover operated the store at the corner of Main and Potter Sts., he also had a little lumber-yard in the lot at the rear, which is now a lawn.

James Glover's successor, also, continued the lumber yard, till, finally, it came into the possession of Benjamin Roberts, a cousin of ex-Mayor J. M. Roberts' father. Mr. Roberts sold out to Charles H. Shinn, who removed the business down Potter street. The Lumber-yard now extended from the pottery, south, about a hundred feet, and all the way across to Ellis street.

In 1849, when the eager search for gold prevailed on the Pacific Coast, a novel order was received by this firm—to supply the frames for ten one-and-a-half story houses, to be shipped to California.

Joseph Stewart, the mason, then a lad, drove team for Samuel Albertson, the butcher, and hauled the lumber for the frames.

Casper, father of the late William S. Hart, at that time, worked in the Lumber-yard.

Isaac Albertson, brother of Mary Thackara, packed the completed frames on a sail-boat, lying at the wharf

along the Delaware River, at the foot of Cooper St., Camden.

But the frames, through some misunderstanding, never proceeded any farther on their journey. They were, at last, used in erecting a row of houses in Camden, away out Federal St. toward Cooper's Creek. A group of little dingy structures may now be seen in that vicinity, constituting what has always been known as "California row."

In 1852, Samuel S. Willits purchased the lumber interests of Charles H. Shinn, and later, moved the plant to a large tract of land at Haddon and Euclid Avenues.

Mr. Willits was succeeded by his son, S. A. Willits, who is, at present Secretary and Manager, with an office on Main St., next to the bank.

The Store that formerly stood on the west corner of Main and Potter Sts., had, in its history, numerous occupants.

In 1828, during John Quincy Adams' Administration, the Post Office was here, and Joseph Porter was the Postmaster. It was about this time that the mail route was established between Haddonfield and Camden.

James Glover, before mentioned, next had the store. Mr. Glover was a brother-in-law of Mary Thackara, and father of Ellen Glover, her faithful niece.

Levis Shivers succeeded Mr. Glover, and John Kay also conducted business here, keeping feed and general supplies for the Egg Harbor trade.

On the opposite side of Potter street, at this time, was a row of open sheds, for the accommodation of overland craft from the Seashore. The large white-covered Egg Harbor wagons, drawn by two horses, and freighted with clams, oysters, and fish, came up the old road to Long-coming, now named Berlin, where they halted and fed. Then, they came by way of Cross Keys, the present Gibbsboro, and on to Haddonfield, which was their next and final stopping place, to rest and feed, before going on to Camden and Philadelphia with their cargo of sea-food. While the teams found shelter under the Potter street sheds, their drivers, no doubt, refreshed themselves at the Old Tavern House.

After supplying the trade in the village with such

stock as they carried, these toilers pursued their journey along the King's Highway, and down the "Ferry Road," through sand or mud, to the Delaware.

Returning, Potter street was again their harbor, where, after loading up with horse feed, pork, flour, and, undoubtedly, a supply of whisky, for all the stores then dealt in this commodity, they travelled back again to the shore, only to re-load, and repeat the same long, monotonous round: they usually made two or three trips a week. Some went by the way of Ellis street.

But the above were not the only patrons of the well-known Potter St. sheds.

The Glass-house wagons from Waterford, Winslow, and other points, drawn by six or eight mules, with a bell suspended from each side of the head, for protection in the darkness, also mingled with the Egg Harbor visitants, and the Charcoal teams of Long-a-coming and vicinity, as well as the Box Factory vehicles of Clementon.

These various conveyances travelled, not in processions or trains, but, at various intervals, through the day, and through the night, one, two, or more, coming or going, could be seen or heard, slowly wending their lonely way along the old pottery road to their destination.

In the 50's, however, conditions changed; turnpikes and railroads came to the rescue, and in the rapid march of progress and improvement, the former old methods of transportation so speedily passed out of existence, that it soon came to be a curiosity to see one of the "old-timers" on the road.

The old Store on the corner, also, caught the spirit; it joined in the march, and, for the last time, experienced a change, not only in occupancy, but of ownership.

Aaron C. Clement, son of John Clement, Sr., now came into possession of this property, and, with the advent of the new owner and proprietor, everything about the establishment was revolutionized. A first-class Dry Goods and Grocery Store was founded, and, under the skillful management of this bright, energetic, and capable man, an extensive business was developed. For many years, this was the leading store in Haddonfield; its reputation drew patronage from far and wide, and, regardless

of distance, people counted it a privilege to do their trading at Aaron Clement's store.

After Mr. Clement lost his health, and retired from business, the old store, for awhile, stood tenantless, and about twenty-five years ago, was torn down, and the lumber utilized in building some small houses at the foot of Ellis street.

Among the early residents of Potter street, no one was probably better known, than James G. Webster; he was a carriage builder, and carried on the business at the southern part of the street, where his home and wheelwright shop were located.

Aside from being a skilled mechanic, Mr. Webster was an ardent lover of music, and was the fortunate possessor of an admirable tenor voice. He led the singing in the choir of the old Baptist Church, that then occupied the site of the present Mortuary Chapel. This energetic gentlemen, also conducted, almost without charge, a choral class, during the evenings of the week, by means of which, the choir was kept supplied with trained singers.

Edward Webster, son of the above, is a teller in the Old National State Bank of Camden, where he has been employed since a boy. Mr. Webster received his appointment through the late John Gill, Sr., the long-honored President of this Bank. Edward Webster 2d, is a clerk in the same institution with his father.

The house built and owned by Edward Webster, was next to his father's, and partly constructed of a portion of the old wheelwright shop, moved over from the Ellis street side of the lot.

A few years ago, this property was purchased by Mrs. Caroline Haines. It was remodeled and enlarged, and is now the "Anna Scull Memorial Rest Cottage."

An equally prominent resident of Potter street, was the late William C. Githens. His home and cabinet shop, on the east side of Potter street, near Main, are among the few old landmarks whose original forms have been preserved. Mr. Githens was an Undertaker, and learned his trade of William Hugg, whose cabinet shop stood on the south side of the store lot.

Mr. Githens was a superior mechanic, and manufactured most of his funeral supplies at home. Like his friend

James Webster, he also enjoyed music, and, to relieve the tedium of his solemn vocation, often resorted to his fiddle.

Mr. Githens, at one time, played the violincello in the Baptist Church choir. During Mr. Webster's leadership of the choir, by a vote of a church meeting, consent had been gained to use the cello, which was a step in advance, and brought about a controversy among the members. Some left the church, but the "obnoxious thing" continued to be used. It followed that other musical instruments were added; beside an organ and Billy Githens' cello, John Clement played the violin, and Benjamin Thackara, the flute.

Charles W., son of William Githens, continued the business of his father, and with his family, now occupies the old homestead. Mr. Githens excels in the art of inlaid work. A table recently completed, has in the center, a design, charmingly wrought with ebony, holly, vermillion, red wood, and other ornamental varieties. He is also an admirer of fine paintings, of which he owns a large and valuable collection.

Mr. Githens inherits a love of music, and while he plays no instrument, seldom misses the Concerts of the Philadelphia Orchestra. He still has his father's eventful old cello, which claims a most important place in the Potter street home.

Passing down Potter street, next to Aaron Clement's, is the remodeled house of Ezra Bell. This house formerly belonged to John Haines, and was occupied by Joseph Kain and his family. Mr. Kain was a wheelwright and worked for James Webster. Two of his daughters, Sarah and Elizabeth were dress-makers and understood their art.

Billy Githens now used the cabinet shop vacated by William Hugg, and, later on, built his own on the opposite side of the street. About this time, Mr. Githens became a widower; and never believing it wise for man to be alone, it was perfectly natural and commendable as well, that he should, at the proper time, take another mate. Mr. Githens' first choice was the niece of Mrs. Hugg, the wife of the man with whom he learned his trade. In his second matrimonial venture, this wise and far-seeing man had no idea of rushing into ills of which he knew not, and, therefore, most judiciously selected, for his new partner,

his well-known and ever valued neighbor and friend, Sarah Kain.

Mrs. Githens the second, was the estimable mother of Charles W., and survived her husband many years.

Elizabeth Kain, then a girl in her teens, was a soprano in that famous Baptist choir; many years later, she became the second wife of James Webster, in whose choral class she had received her first lesson in singing. Mrs. Webster, now past the four-score mark, has long been a widow; her fondness for music, however, has lost none of its intensity, nor has the memory of those choir rehearsals, held at the home of Billy Githens, ever ceased to be, to her, a source of supreme pleasure.

In the early part of the nineteenth century, Silas Willis built a little house on Potter street, below the pottery. This was a primitive little affair, and no less conspicuous for its diminutive size, than for the limited number of its apartments. Silas Willis' wife, Elizabeth, was a sister of Joseph Kain, and the present Elizabeth Webster is her namesake.

The late Benjamin B. Willis was a son of the above Silas Willis, and, in 1813, was born in this little Potter street house, a picture of which, in after years, was among Mr. Willis' choicest possessions.

Bowman Middleton and Bennie Willis both worked in the cabinet shop of Billy Githens, whose wife, Sarah Kain, was Bennie's cousin.

Bowman Middleton completed his trade, and, for many years, was one of Camden's most popular undertakers. Bennie Willis, however, was unable, physically, to finish his trade, and, therefore, left the shop and engaged in teaching. He had a school on Main street, where Phebe Cox afterward taught.

About 1840, Mr. Willis obtained a position in the Publishing House of J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. He afterward became a member of the firm, with which, for more than a quarter of a century, he was actively associated.

It was an established custom with this firm, that when a member had acquired a certain amount of money, he should withdraw. B. B. Willis, therefore, went out in 1855,

although he never actually severed his entire connection with the Lippincott store.

At this time, Mr. Willis purchased the Sharpless property on West Main street, and returned, with his family, to the village of his birth. During the pastorate of the Rev. R. F. Young, "Bro. Bennie" rendered valuable support to the Haddonfield Baptist Church, of which he was a devoted member. From his Kain ancestry, Mr. Willis inherited the talent for music that characterized the entire family; he was a beautiful singer, often playing his own accompaniments, and his effective rendering of the old church hymns, was a source of infinite pleasure to all who heard him.

In 1838, Reuben Roberts moved from Philadelphia to Potter street, into the house vacated by Joseph Kain. This house belonged to Rachel, wife of Reuben Roberts, to whom it had been left by John Haines, her brother. Mr. Roberts was a mason, and an excellent mechanic; he had the honor of putting the first rough-cast, or stucco on the Old Tavern.

Keturah, one of his daughters, was a teacher, and for awhile, conducted a little school at her home on Potter street. Josiah Evans' children were among the pupils. Miss Roberts now makes her home with John Bell, a nephew.

In 1857, Samuel Thackara returned to Potter street, with a new partner, his third matrimonial venture, and again occupied the home next to the Reuben Roberts house, which, some years before, he had purchased of Franklin Eggman, the tailor.

The maiden name of Mr. Thackara's first wife was Peacock; she was the mother of his two children, one of whom was Benjamin, of the firm of Thackara & Buck, dealers in Gas Fixtures, on Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

Mr. Thackara was not a stranger in Haddonfield; on the contrary, he was one of the most interesting inhabitants, for he had served in the war of 1812, and, being a blacksmith, while in the army, followed his useful calling.

At one time, Samuel Thackara carried on his business in Haddonfield, and his shop stood on the corner of Main and Grove sts., now occupied by the Methodist Church. Later, Mr. Thackara engaged in business in Phil-

adelphia, and, with his second wife, nee Miss Burrough, boarded in the home of Mrs. Ann Glover.

Again becoming a widower, Mr. Thackara renewed the acquaintance of Mary Albertson, Mrs. Glover's sister, of Haddonfield.

Casually, Mr. Thackara engaged Mary to make some additions to his wardrobe, and this kind friend, ever industrious and practical as well, quite enjoyed the novelty. Mary had advanced toward middle age, and not being easily suited, had not yet found a suitor; this was a fact to which her friends had become reconciled, when, suddenly, and without warning, the village was stirred to its very center, and the usually peaceful Potter street experienced a desperate upheaval, by the entirely unexpected, and apparently incredible announcement, that Mary Albertson was going to marry "Old Sammy Thackara."

The little wardrobe episode had, in some mysterious, and unaccountable way, escaped the knowledge of even the most vigilant; even the reported removal of the tenants of Mr. Thackara's house had attracted but slight notice, but when the owner himself frequently appeared about the place all doubts were removed regarding the step that Mary Albertson was about to take.

For a time, the usual routine of business was forgotten, and a delegation repaired to the cabinet shop of Billy Githens to discuss the situation. Work on a half-finished casket, was, temporarily suspended, and Billy, who was a man of a few words, conscientious, and of undoubted authority on matrimonial subjects, was heard to declare, and in the presence of reliable witnesses, that, in his opinion, the couple would make a good match.

It was, therefore, fifty-two years ago, that Samuel Thackara, husband of the surviving Mary, now in the one-hundredth-year of her age, become for the second time a worthy resident of Potter street.

A few improvements to the house were needed; there was one thing, Mary said, she had always been used to, and could not think of doing without, and that was a back stairway. This indulgence was not only immediately granted, but a spacious new kitchen also, and, to Mary's unspeakable delight, a room over it, containing four windows, in the bargain.

There were but few houses on Potter street in those days. On the west side, were first, the corner store and William Hugg's cabinet shop; the Reuben Roberts and Thackara houses; the Snowden dwelling and the Pottery; the lumber-yard office and Silas Willis house. James G. Webster's house, which remains unaltered, came next, and at its rear, was his wheelwright shop.

William Tomlinson owned the blacksmith shop at the point where Potter and Ellis streets meet, and with his family, occupied one of the little houses near his business. Later he abandoned his trade and built a new house on the opposite side of the street.

At the corner of Main and Potter streets, on the east side, was the home of the Morrisises, the maternal grandparents of Mayor Roberts.

Mary, daughter of Richard Snowden, Sr., once taught a little school in this house.

The sheds before mentioned occupied the next space, and farther on was Billy Githens' house, with the cabinet shop beside it. John Hains' sisters owned the next small dwelling: Clement's pasture field followed, and up the road opposite the pottery, was the home of Isabella H. Crawford. A long stretch of farm land succeeded, and the little rough-cast house, with its little frame store addition, was now reached.

In 1843, Jacob H. Fowler moved from his farm, on the Milford road, near "Hillman," into this house, built by Joseph Hillman, and his daughters, Rebecca and Eliza, attended the store. All the youngsters in the village resorted thither for their cakes and candy. The window in the front was decorated with well-filled jars of tempting sweets, and the entrance, as all the trade well knew, was by a door on the north side.

Christmastide was a busy time here, for Mr. Fowler kept a full stock of candies and toys, and all sorts of holiday treats for the girls and boys.

Next to Mr. Fowler's was a small house, built by Josiah Parker; this he sold to Miss Haines, a maiden lady, who lived there the remainder of her life. This property was afterward owned by a sister of William Tomlinson. Zebulon Tompkins, father of Harry Tompkins, the contractor, also of Mrs. Edward Webster, for many years oc-

cupied this house. Mr. Tompkins was among the first from Haddonfield to enlist in the War of the Rebellion, in which he faithfully served during the four years of its continuance. He was enrolled in Company E, 6th Regiment, N. J. Vols. The present owner of the above is Willam H. Harrison, the assessor, by whom the house has been enlarged, and almost entirely rebuilt.

William Tomlinson's new house was next, built when he resigned the blacksmith shop, and where he now engaged in the butcher business, and had an abattoir, or slaughter house on the premises. An attraction here, for a time, was a wounded eagle: the bird had been shot on Hooten's Mount, and one wing broken. Later it was brought as a curiosity to Mr. Tomlinson's and protected in his crib house. The disabled member healed, however, and had the captive been released, it would, undoubtedly, have flown away to its native haunts.

Below Mr. Tomlinson's were two or three small tenements, owned by Charles Lippincott, of Main street, and these completed the east side.

Some time in the 50's Col. Jesse Peyton, a Kentucky gentleman, residing on Main street, in the dwelling recently demolished to widen Colonial avenue, and make room for the charming new house of Charles H. Hillman, his son-in-law, manifested a spirit of progress and enterprise almost beyond comprehension, when he erected the public building on Potter street, next to the present Haddon House and in honor of his friend, Dr. Charles H. Hendry, named it "Hendry Hall."

Col. Peyton, ever of an esthetic inclination, wished to provide a suitable place for lectures, musicales, etc., and thus afford the people of Haddonfield an opportunity for the enjoyment of a high order of entertainment.

The buiding was made possible by the ingenious combination of portions of two unused barns in the vicinity; one of these was contributed by Charles H. Shinn, who, in 1844, erected on the corner of Main and Grove streets, the dwelling now enlarged and owned by W. H. Snowden.

Mr. Shinn's barn, therefore, was moved across Main street to aid in the enterprise.

Hendry Hall was a structure of somewhat unique design—extremely long and narrow, and weather boarded

vertically, but admirably adapted to the purpose for which it was intended.

For a while the conception promised to succeed. A lecture course was highly appreciated, and various other attractions followed.

On one occasion, the late Carl Sentz, a warm personal friend of the Col. gave a concert, contributing his services, and the proceeds of the evening were appropriated by Col. Peyton to the scheme of lighting the streets of the village. Second-hand lamp posts were obtained, because they cost the less; a lamp lighter was employed to light the kerosene lamps in the evening, and, at dawn, again go around and extinguish them.

The village was small, with a limited number of streets and the lamps were few and far between, like the rays that emanated from them, which, though hardly more than of the will-o-the-wisp conceit, Haddonfield enjoyed the dignity of owning street lamps; and, certainly, travelling at night was far less difficult and dangerous.

But, regardless of the noble efforts of Col. Peyton, the success of Hendry Hall was of short duration. After a few Sunday School entertainments and a fair for the benefit of sick and wounded soldiers, only an occasional dance or supper served to rescue the enterprise from total oblivion. The building came to be used for different purposes.

A private school for girls, conducted by Mr. Hutchinson, was once attempted here, and though, for a time, patronized by the best families, it too, passed out of existence.

The property finally changed owners, and was converted into a dwelling. In remodelling the structure, there seemed an actual dissection of the affair, and, as trophies, many of the parts found niches in most unlikely situations.

The front of the Hall was moved around on Main street and made to constitute a part of a dwelling, afterward occupied by Dr. Bowman Shivers; while the blinds or shutters were secured by Isaac Braddock to embellish the front windows of his residence at the corner of Main street and Haddon avenue.

Enlarged and beautified, one now beholds, in the place of the Hendry Hall, the spacious and comfortable dwelling of Samuel C. A. Clement, the oldest son of the late Aaron

C., who happily, received the lion's share of this mutilated monument of Col. Peyton's pride.

Samuel C. A. Clement married Anna, daughter of the late Capt. Wm. H. and Louisa G. Shinn.

Benjamin Eggman, for many years a trusted clerk in the store of A. C. Clement, lived on the west corner of what is now Fowler avenue; after leaving Mr. Clement he here started the grocery business for himself, in which he was very successful. The home of Bennie Eggman was the former lumber-yard office, enlarged and remodeled.

While the office of Samuel Willits, however, the "Friends' Library" was, for a time, located there, and Henry Wible was the Librarian. When the Lumber-yard was removed, the Library, which had seemed to have no continuing city, was moved with it, and continued its itineracy for many years afterward, till, at last, it anchored at the present site on Main street.

Soon after the close of the Civil War, David Southard, built a large house on the corner of the drive opposite Bennie Eggman's. Mr. Southard had served the war through, and spent eighteen months in Andersonville Prison. He was by trade a blacksmith, and, while a prisoner, worked at the forge. For this, he received some compensation, that enabled him to procure something better than the ordinary prison fare, which he often shared with his comrades.

Mr. Southard owned the Blacksmith shop at the foot of Potter street, which, later, he sold to Samuel K. Matlack; his house, he exchanged for one belonging to Elwood Fowler in Ellisburg, where he afterward removed.

Elwood Fowler, father of Benjamin F. Fowler, then a lad in Alfred W. Clement's store, and now an enterprising merchant of Haddonfield, at this time became a resident of Potter street; here Mr. Fowler erected a number of houses and the hitherto little driveway, leading to Ellis street, now became known as Fowler Avenue.

Some time in the 70's, George D. Stuart abandoned farm life, and built a home on Potter street, next to the pottery. Later, he purchased the Jacob P. Fowler place opposite, built in 1860, and for many years, was extensively engaged as a dealer in fine horses. Deacon Stuart, as he was generally known, passed away two years ago; the

beautiful home is occupied by his surviving wife and a daughter.

Jacob P. Fowler, the former owner of this home, and a son of the Jacob H. Fowler who once kept the little store, was a "Justice of the Peace," but, so orderly and well-regulated were the residents of Potter street, that "Squire Fowler" never had occasion to exercise his authority. Mr. Fowler departed this life several years ago, leaving a fourth wife, who still survives him.

Among those who selected Potter street as a place of retirement, was Miss Isabella H. Crawford. Her house was constructed, more than half a century ago, of material from a part of the house on Main St., belonging to John Clement, Sr., for whom she was, for twenty years, managing housekeeper. Mr. Clement willed the above to her for life.

Miss Crawford, noted for her erect and dignified appearance, was ever genial, courteous, hospitable, and a general favorite among those accustomed to visit at the home of John Clement, where she so long and so ably presided.

Dr. Theodore S. Williams moved from Germantown to Potter street, about 1870; he purchased the William Tomlinson house, which he occupied many years before removing to the Horter property on Main Street, opposite Haddon Avenue.

Dr. Williams was a graduate of Bowdoin College, Mass., and the first Homeopathic Physician to practice in Germantown; he received the honorary degree of doctor of homeopathic medicine, from the old Homeopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1850.

Dr. Williams was, during his life, one of the most distinguished practitioners in Philadelphia.

The present Dr. Franklin Eyre Williams is a son of the late Theo. S. Williams, and Eliza Eyre, his wife, and was born in Germantown. He was educated in the Philadelphia public schools, the Friends' Academy in Haddonfield, and the University of Pennsylvania. In the latter, he graduated in both the academic and medical departments. Dr. Williams also graduated from the Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia, and since that time, has been engaged in the practice of medicine now in Had-

donfield, as a specialist in internal medication and chronic diseases.

While a boy in his teens, Dr. Williams was prepared for the University of Pennsylvania by the late John Boadle, of the Haddonfield Friends' School.

Samuel Paris and Dorothy Crispin Paris, his wife, moved from Philadelphia to Potter street about twenty-five years ago, into the house formerly owned by Capt. Tatem, opposite Clement's field. Mr. Paris was the son of Gabriel Paris, who was of Huguenot descent, and born of noble family in Paris, France. Samuel Paris was a man of intellect and literary ability; he was particularly noted for his knowledge of Shakespeare and the Bible. With his long white hair and beard, Mr. Paris was of real patriarchal appearance, insomuch that many were inclined to honor him with the title of "grandfather."

Mrs. Jessie C. P. Williams, wife of Dr. F. E. Williams, is a grand-daughter of Mr. Paris.

When his health became impaired and Rheumatic Gout quite crippled him, Mr. Paris' poetic nature came to the rescue, and he amused himself writing verse. With him originated the unique idea of writing advertisements in the form of poetry. Mr. Paris was for many years identified with the famous "Tower Hall," of Philadelphia, as were also other members of his family.

In the early 70's, William H. Fowler, grandson of Jacob H. Fowler, and a veteran of the Civil War, built the house on Potter street, next to Abel Hillman's, where, for a few years, he lived. This house has had numerous tenants, among whom was Charles W. Kimball, also a veteran of the War, and a Scientist. Mr. and Mrs. Kimball were both members of the Natural Science Club, and, for eighteen years, the former was its valued President. A few years ago, the family moved to the Pacific Coast, and are now living at Long Beach, in Southern California.

The late Robert F. Young, for twenty-two years, the worthy and faithful pastor of the Haddonfield Baptist church previous to the purchase of the parsonage, lived on Potter street, in the Haines house, next to Mr. Githens' shop. It was largely due to the indefatigable efforts of R. F. Young, that Local Option was gained for Haddonfield.

In 1838, Abel Hillman, son of the late Samuel and

Keziah F. Hillman, a retired farmer, purchased the Stuart property, adjoining the Snowden estate. Mr. Hillman became prominently identified with the public affairs of the Borough. His honesty appealed to the minds of the citizens, and he was elected six times a member of the Borough Council, and served six years as Treasurer of the Borough. Mr. Hillman was also Supervisor of streets. He died of paralysis of the throat in 1899, aged sixty-six years. A surviving widow and daughter occupy the homestead.

Next door to Aunt Mary Thackara's, formerly lived her sister, Eleanor Rulon, and her widowed daughter, Eliza R. Boggs, who was the mother of William R. Boggs, Cashier of the Haddonfield National Bank. At this time, rosy-cheeked little Willie was just learning to make the figures, that he has ever since been using.

William S. Capern, now the Master Builder of Haddonfield, for a few years lived in one of Elwood Fowler's cottages, below Fowler Avenue. After being an employee of Mr. Albright for three years, Mr. Capern decided to branch out for himself; his first contract was to tear down the old store of Aaron Clement, and appropriate the lumber elsewhere. This accomplished, other orders followed, and Mr. Capern was in constant demand, and has been ever since, as results prove.

Keziah French Hillman, widow of Samuel Hillman, and a descendant of the French Family, whose genealogy has recently been completed, with her youngest daughter, for several years occupied the Isabella Crawford house, until the home and school building, now the Athenaeum, were erected on Chestnut street.

Miss Rebecca Snowden, the faithful companion of her brother, Richard, Jr., was closely identified with Potter street, and all its associations. Miss Snowden was an excellent neighbor, a valued friend, and a most devoted member of the Episcopal Church.

Miss Frances Tomlinson, also, the only daughter of William Tomlinson, passed the earlier portion of her life on Potter street. She was, for many years, a member of the Methodist church choir, and, later, became the wife of R. Elmer Clement.

James L. Pennypacker lived for several years on Pot-

ter street, opposite the Thackara home, before removing to the late Dr. Hendry house on Main street. Mr. Pennypacker is a graduate of Harvard College, and he and Mrs. Pennypacker are engaged in literary pursuits. They are active members of the Natural Science Club, and Mr. Pennypacker is President of the Delaware Valley Naturalists' Union.

Samuel Dunbarr was one of the first to occupy the dwelling made of the Hendry Hall.

Edwin Graham, father of Mrs. H. S. Scovel, also lived there, and, the final tenant, before Samuel Clement took possession, was William Thompson, who removed to Chestnut street. Walter C. Rulon formerly lived on Potter St., and Emma, his daughter, delights in the fact that she was born there.

The late William Shreve, whose family purchased the old home of R. Elmer Clement's father, on Ellis St., for many years resided in one of the Fowler houses on Potter street.

Silas Willis who built the little house below the pottery, took his second wife to reside on Tanner street; from here, "Uncle Silas" removed to the Joseph Bates house on Ellis street, where he died.

Many others might be named, who, at one time or another, sojourned for awhile on Potter street, but the object of the present sketch has been, more particularly, to recall some of the earliest residents and their various activities.

Of late years, Potter street has expanded, and come to assume a modern aspect. Branching out from this old highway from the Delaware to the Sea, are now observed Fowler Avenue, Springfield Terrace, Belmont Drive, etc., and others are in contemplation.

Most of the old dwellings have been rebuilt or remodelled, and many beautiful new ones added.

The Morris home on the north-east corner has developed into the large and commodious Haddon House. The estate of the Haines sisters has also been modernized, and is now occupied by Merritt Pharo, whose wife is a granddaughter of the late Reuben Roberts.

Isabella Crawford's old home, once so rural, has, like the others, undergone various changes, and is now sur-

rounded by new structures. On the south side, is the handsome residence of Mrs. W. S. Dunphey, daughter of the late George D. Stuart.

Among the improvements, however, nothing is more striking than the complete transformation of the little abode below the pottery, built nearly a century ago. In its time, this house has known many tenants. Joseph Kain once occupied it, temporarily, before moving next to James Webster's.

Joseph Plum once lived there; this was the father of John, the well-known proprietor of the American House, as the Old Tavern was then called, and who was one of those put out of business, when Local Option went into effect in Haddonfield.

In the 60's, Reuben Pond, whose wife was a sister of Samuel Reeves, of Rowandtown, also called Glenwood, and, at present, Westmont, purchased this property, and Elwood Fowler enlarged and rebuilt the house.

Mr. and Mrs. Pond remained here till the end of their days. Two years ago, the surviving children sold the property to George Peacock, who at once proceeded to redeem the neglected fabric from its utter desolation; on the ruins of the past, therefore, has arisen a cottage, that for neatness and beauty, claims more than a mere passing notice.

The two little red houses next to Mr. Webster's, built, nobody knows how long ago, are still holding their own. Next to these, is a little new house made of an old barn, moved over from Ellis street.

Fitted in between this and the final Matlack house, is still another habitation, made of Mark Bareford's old wheelwright shop, transferred from Ellis street, and made to face in the opposite direction.

The former indispensable Blacksmith shop with its long list of owners, has disappeared from view, and, on the vacant point, not even a horse-shoe has been left to perpetuate the memory of this useful old establishment.

Amid the changing scenes of the southern end of Potter street, the little "red store" so dear to the former juvenile portion of the community, has admirably acquitted itself. Built more than a century ago, by Joshua Peacock, utilized, for a quarter of that time, by the Fowlers, as a successful place of business, this same structure now dem-



onstrates the dignity of useful occupation, by its latest elevation, whereby, it has so been transformed, and beautified, as, at present, to constitute the bright and attractive parlor of Mr. Joyce's remodelled home.

When, and by whom the Joyce house was built seems somewhat a matter of conjecture. The oldest residents of Haddonfield, when questioned, regarding it, will halt, hesitate, and, finally admit that this house has been there as long as they can remember, and thus the problem seems impossible of solution.

What is now Potter street, was formerly a private road, and was only opened to the public in 1798, and called the "New Long-a-coming Road."

John Kay, late of Waterford, Gloucester Co., owned much land on the East side of this road, toward the Mill Pond. In a Deed Book in the Court House at Woodbury, is the following record of a codicil to the Will of John Kay, dated May 27, 1785:—"devised all his lands in Newton Township, except ten acres, which he had devised (to his daughters) to his wife, Rebecca, who, by her Will, dated January 27, 1798, devised part to her daughter Ann Kay, who married Isaac Cathrall."

It is further stated, "that on March 21, 1801, Dr. Isaac Cathrall, of Philadelphia, and Ann, his wife, of the one part, conveyed four acres, one rood, and thirty-five perches of land on Potter street (Long-coming-road) to Joseph Hillman, yeoman, of Haddonfield, Gloucester Co., of the other part, for the sum of \$384., paid by the said Joseph Hillman." The above was recorded June 15, 1801. This is the estate on Potter street, on the corner of Springfield Terrace, now owned by Edwin L. Joyce. As no mention is made of a dwelling in the above transaction, it seems highly probable that the that the little brick house purchased by Joshua Peacock, was built by Joseph Hillman.

No further record can be found until the above Joshua, great-grandfather of Samuel N. Peacock, associated with B. F. Fowler, bought this property, and, to the brick house, built the frame addition, which was the store before mentioned. When Joshua Peacock bought this place, cannot be ascertained, but, as he was born in 1758, and was about forty years old, when Joseph Hillman became owner of the above, it seems likely that he was the succeeding owner.

Susanna, Joshua's daughter, kept house for him while he lived here. She married Josiah Parker, who built the house next door, now owned by William H. Harrison. Susanna died in 1837, aged 46 years. After the decease of his daughter, Joshua Peacock sold his property to Jacob H. Fowler, and went to live with his son, Joseph Peacock, near the present Freeman Station, where George N. Peacock, Joseph's son, now resides. Joshua Peacock died in 1848, aged 90 years.

In 1843, Jacob H. Fowler, and his family moved from his farm on the Milford road, into the house on Potter street, and the daughters conducted the store, before described, until the death of their father in 1856.

George Lair next purchased the property, and about 1880, sold the same to Mr. Hayes, a retired Coal dealer of Philadelphia.

Mrs. Smith of Center street, the daughter of Mr. Hayes, next occupied the house. A few years ago, the property was sold to Edwin L. Joyce, by whom the house has been enlarged. An additional story has been added to the brick part of the building, and the little frame store, elevated to the dignity of its mate; so numerous have been the improvements, made to this old landmark, that many almost fail to recognize the place.

The Dr. Williams house is now owned by Mr. England, and the tenements beyond, are owned by Mr. George Horter.

This street, laid in 1798, has developed into an attractive avenue; it is broad, well-shaded, clean, and, most desirable of all, charmingly quiet. The southern section has recently been improved by grading and curbing, and all the sidewalks have been paved. Electricity, gas, water, sewerage, and the telephone, have also been added, so that all city advantages are now at the disposal of the residents of Potter street.

The descendants of the old stock are found mostly at the upper part of the avenue, and are a remarkably enterprising and contented people. Like the ivy, they closely twine and tightly cling to the fond recollections of the past, and delight in the unfading memories so closely associated with the beloved old Historic Potter street.

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